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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/475,881	12/30/1999	JAMES R. ALTENDAHL	E-915	7004

919 7590 10/27/2003

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EXAMINER

BACKER, FIRMIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

DATE MAILED: 10/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

09/475,881

Applicant(s)

ALTENDAHL ET AL.

Examiner

Firmin Backer

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this c mmunicati n appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 12.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

Art Unit: 3621

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 11<sup>th</sup>, has been entered.

***Amendment***

2. An amendment has been filed on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003 In which claim 1 and 5 have been amended. Claims 1-8 remain Pending in the letter.

***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 5 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are

Art Unit: 3621

such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barns-Slavin et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,950) in view of Praisner et al (U.S. PG Pub 2002/0174030).

4. As per claims 1 and 5, Barns-Slavin et al teach a set of load planning tables for use in a system for managing shipping parcels (*carrier management system*), the set of load planning tables comprising a group table (*memory 22*), for storing group identifiers (*parcel identification number*), each group identifier used to identify a group of one or more parcels (*see fig 2, column 3 lines 37-64*), a load table for storing records of attributes associated with a load, which is in turn associated with a group, each record having a group identifier field and a load identifier field (*see column 2 lines 20-48*), a stop table, for storing records of attributes associated with a stop (*destination address*), which is in turn associated with a load, which is in turn associated with a group, each record having a group identifier field, a load identifier field, a stop identifier field, and a drop bill number field (*see fig 2, column 3 lines 37-64*), a shipment header table, for storing records of attributes associated with a shipment, which is in turn optionally associated with a stop, which is in turn associated with a load, which is in turn associated with a group, each record having a group identifier field, a load identifier field, a bill number field that serves as a shipment identifier and optionally relates the record to a record in the stop table via the drop bill number field in records of the stop table, an origin identifier field, and a destination identifier field (*see column 2 lines 20-48*) and a cost table, for storing records of attributes associated with a component cost of a load, which is in turn associated with a load, which is, in turn associated with a group, each record having a group identifier field, a load identifier field, a field indicating

Art Unit: 3621

a cost type, and a field indicating a cost amount I(*see column 6 lines 22-7 line15*). Barns-Slavin et al fail to teach an inventive concept wherein the set of load planning tables applies business rules to a consignee party a shipper party and to a third parry that a priority table is used to determine a time of arrival, a party responsible for payment a destination location and applies the business rules to event and subevents to determine delivery parameters. However Praisner et al teach an inventive concept wherein the set of load planning tables applies business rules to a consignee party a shipper party and to a third parry that a priority table is used to determine a time of arrival, a party responsible for payment a destination location and applies the business rules to event and subevents to determine delivery parameters (*see paragraph 0056 and 0057*). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Barns-Slavin et al's inventive concept to include Praisner et al's an inventive concept wherein the set of load planning tables applies business rules to a consignee party a shipper party and to a third parry that a priority table is used to determine a time of arrival, a party responsible for payment a destination location and applies the business rules to event and subevents to determine delivery parameters because this would have enhance the product delivery mechanism.

5. As per claims 2, 3, 6 and 7, Barns-Slavin et al teach a set of load planning tables wherein the records of the load table also include fields for indicating a master load identifier, a carrier identifier, a tariff identifier, an origin and a destination, a field for indicating a pro number, a field for an inbound/outbound indicator, a field indicating an origin, and a field indicating a destination (*see column 2 lines 20-48*).

Art Unit: 3621

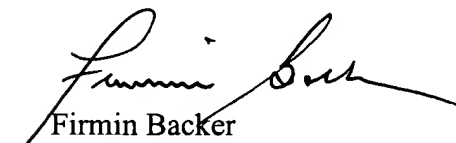
6. As per claims 4 and 8, Barns-Slavin et al teach a set of load planning tables wherein the records of the stop table also include fields for indicating a drop load identifier, a drop distribution center identifier, and a parent load (*see column 2 lines 20-48*).

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Firmin Backer whose telephone number is (703) 305-0624. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammel can be reached on (703) 305-9768. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-5484.

  
Firmin Backer  
October 22, 2003